



Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
www.dutchessfishandgame.org

The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932

March 14, 2024 Regular Delegates Meeting

JB's Bar & Grill, James Baird State Park, Pleasant Valley, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:35 PM by President Anthony Pittore.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Anthony Pittore.

A moment of silence was observed for armed services personnel, first responders, and past Federation members.

Roll Call: 31 people were in attendance, representing 21 clubs.

Guests

Several guests were recognized:

Will Babb - new delegate from Viola Rod & Gun Club

Jim Forrester - new delegate from Neighbors Gun Club

Kevin Frost – secretary from Manchester Hunt Club

The Treasurer's Report was accepted upon a motion by Jim Guyette and a second by Adam Yaszko. All-in-favor (AIF).

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on February 8, 2024 were approved upon a motion by Jim Guyette and a second by Adam Yaszko. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on February 26, 2024 were approved upon a motion by Jim Guyette and a second by Adam Yaszko. AIF

Committee Reports

Annual Dinner

Anthony Pittore reported that the possibility of a summer or fall BBQ type of event is being explored for this year or next year.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

Anthony reported that about 650 pounds of game meat was distributed last month and another 550 pounds last week. The facilities and cooler were thoroughly cleaned and the freezers and cooler are all empty.

Bill Connors addressed a question about the recent issue with the cooler. The problem was that it was used by someone outside the organization for personal use and was not cleaned afterward. This could have had serious consequences for the program. It was addressed with those involved and Bill believes that there should not be any further problems. But more restrictive actions may be taken if warranted.

Fish

Anthony Pittore announced the local trout stocking plans:

- 3/19 Fishkill Creek, Sprout Creek
- 3/20 Ten Mile River, Webutuk Creek, Swamp River
- 3/21 Wappingers Creek, with additional rounds on 4/3, 4/18. 5/1
- 3/26 Roeliff-Jansenkil Creek

The staff could use some additional help. Please contact Anthony if you will help for sure.

The Veterans Fishing Day is set for April 20th at Overlook Park (requires pre-registration).

The Family Fishing Day is set for on April 21st at the same location (no registration required). Some food and refreshments will be provided. We will need help at the events

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt

The applications will likely be available by the June meeting for this event that will be held on Sept. 28.

Bill Conners stated that the DEC will be buying birds for special hunts, like this one, if the state pheasant rearing facility cannot supply birds due to the avian flu outbreak. We also supply birds for this event.

Conservation Education

Dave Morrison reported that we have a potential 17 kids to sponsor. He will soon be sending out emails to the parents. Due to possible closures of some of the camps again this year, the actual number of kids attending will likely be less. So far, only camps Pack Forest and Rushford are designated by the state to be open for certain. Camps DeBruce and Colby may be closed, due to staffing issues.

Fundraising

Tom Fiumarello stated that the Federation Sporting Clays Shoot fundraiser will be held on July 27th at Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays Club in New Paltz. We will need a lot of help, but will be more organized this year after the learning curve last year. The ways that donations can be made are: sponsoring a sign, sponsoring breakfast or lunch, or donating items for the auctions and bucket raffle.

Since this is now the only fundraiser for the Federation, Director Bruce Hotaling requested each club to participate with volunteers, or at the very least, enlist shooters.

Call Tom Fiumarello to volunteer. 845-625-3151.

Youth Trap Shooting

Tom Gannon stated that the league starts on March 21st at 6:00 PM at Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club. Additionally, Neighbors Gun Club, 110 Rod & Gun Club, and Southern Dutchess & Putnam Sportsmen's Assn., will be hosting shoots.

Anthony Pittore reported that this program will receive \$1900 for ammo from an NRA grant.

Legislation (and other conservation news)

Bill Conners handed out copies of a bill that would eliminate back tags statewide. He may email out a request to contact your legislators to get it moving forward.

Bill also provided copies of the 2024 Legislative Guide, that lists all of the legislators representing the county at all levels.

Responding to a question about the new "electronic" licenses, Bill responded that it is not paperless, but will be on plain paper, printed either by the licensing agent or by the individual. While the license itself can be held in electronic format, like using the phone app, the carcass tags **must still be on paper**, with adherence to all rules regarding filling them out and affixing to the carcass.

Bill discussed the Stream Access Verification program, where the DEC will be requiring more formal confirmation of private property owners' allowing fishing access to stocked waters.

Mike Butts, Dave Morrison, and Anthony Pittore will be chairing the effort to get those confirmations and try to get more access. They will need help, so clubs may be contacted to assist with that effort in their areas of the county. Dutchess County has more applicable properties than any other county and even other whole regions.

New York State Conservation Council

No report.

Communications

None reported.

Unfinished (Old) Business

Tom Fiumarello stated that the annual Canine Cancer Shoot fundraiser will again be held on June 15th at Mid-Hudson Sporting Clays Club in New Paltz. Registration is now open. The proceeds support canine cancer research at Cornell, and ultimately also supports human cancer research. This event has established a very good direct relationship with Cornell to allow dog owners to get extraordinary help from their veterinarians. Our CAF (Conservation Awareness Foundation) is a co-sponsor of this event.

New Business

Tom Gannon and Bruce Hotaling have gun raffle tickets available to help fund the construction of a pavilion at Overlook Park in Lagrange where we hold our free fishing events. The construction is a joint effort funded by the CAF and the Town of Lagrange.

1st and 2nd prizes are guns, with a \$100 cash 3rd prize.

The drawing will be held after all 200 tickets are sold; \$20 per ticket.

Announcements

- Washington Hollow Rod & Gun Club – a game dinner on 4/13. Only 75 tickets will be sold.
- 110 Rod & Gun Club – a 3-gun shoot on 3/21; a sporting clays shoot on 4/28.
- Hudson Valley Sportsmen’s Association – upcoming trapping, hunting, and bow hunting education courses. (The trapping course is full at this time.) Registration and pre-course work required through the DEC web site.
- Manchester Hunt Club – a BBQ on 6/8 at the American Legion in Poughkeepsie.
- Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club – a steel plate shoot on 4/7.

50/50 raffle winner – Ken Foster.

Next regular meeting date: April 11, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holsopple,
Secretary